

THIS ISSUE

he Society's
G.M. at
eldreth

SPASTICS NEWS

JULY 1967 PRICE 6d THE MAGAZINE OF THE SPASTICS SOCIETY



(Courtesy: Peterborough Evening Telegraph)

H. M. The Queen



reviews 'The Troops'

The Queen, accompanied by our President, Prince Philip, stops to chat to some youngsters from Wilfred Pickles School, when she arrived in Oakham, on her first visit to Rutland. About 3,000 schoolchildren had assembled at 'Doncaster Close' cricket ground to welcome her. Afterwards, Her Majesty inaugurated a new transport service for the disabled by operating the lift on a new ambulance bought by public subscription

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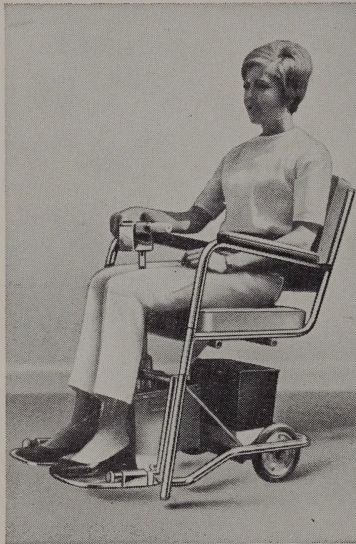
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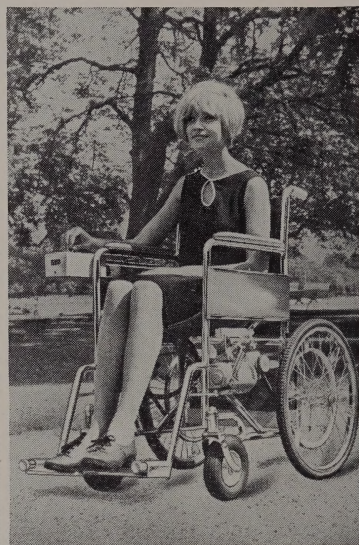
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Round One to the Chancellor!

Mr. Loring animadverts on the Football Pools Case

OFFICERS AND MEMBERS of local Groups will already have received the Chairman's News Flash about the Customs and Excise case, and the majority of readers of *Spastics News* will have read in the national press that Top Ten Promotions have lost.

No doubt this will be a considerable disappointment; indeed many people outside the Society have said how deeply they feel for us in our predicament, and how much they hope that in the long run the case will be won. I think it is true to say that if Top Ten Promotions had won the case it would almost certainly have been taken to the Court of Appeal by the Commissioners of Customs and Excise and thereafter it might well have gone to the House of Lords. This is perhaps cold comfort, but it is important to remember that now that the case is being taken to Appeal by Top Ten Promotions there is the possibility that the High Court decision may be reversed.

The immediate result of the decision of Friday, 9th June, is that The Spastics Society have lost the prospect of the £800,000 due from the Club over the past two and a half years. This sum of money has been held in reserve and was urgently needed for the building of new Centres. The Society has thought it prudent to plan its affairs on the assumption that the case would be lost and has reduced the development programme mainly to projects in which there was a firm commitment, and on this basis the Society will cease to build new projects some time during the course of the next two years, unless it can increase its income from other sources.

Two points are worth bearing in mind. One is that the arrangements made by the organisation in Bristol to secure by legal means that the minimum of betting duty should be paid by the competitors were perfectly proper arrangements made after taking legal advice. There was nothing underhand in the steps that were taken and the arrangements were common knowledge between the Customs and Excise and the Bristol Organisation. The arrangements were, as I explained in my article last month, that three weeks of every four should be organised as Club weeks and not for the purposes of a football pool. The Court held that a legal separation had in fact been made, but that in the opinion of the Court the two arrangements were so mutually self-supportive, and the economic connection so strong, that all four weeks should be subject to betting duty even though in three weeks of the four there was no participation in a football pool. It is important to understand that the whole question is a highly complex legal one and that the moral standing of the Pools Organisers in the matter has not been questioned.

The second point is that much of the money from Regional Pool Promotions has been made available for

creating Centres for spastics or making grants to Local Groups so that Local Centres could be built, and with the exception of the money which has been spent on research and, quite unavoidably, on central administration and the like (a relatively small percentage) the proceeds of the pool are of direct benefit to spastics from all over the country and there can hardly be a Group from whose area there is not someone at a national School or Centre, the existence of which has been made possible by the monies from the Bristol competition. We are also trying to bridge the gap between the amount of money which is expended and the amount which we receive in fees and Schools and Centres. It is therefore absolutely vital that Groups in their propaganda and Group members in their conversation should give 100% support to the Spastics League Club. I know that some Group members feel that these competitions compete with their own fund raising, but in the long run they are of direct benefit to spastics in their own area, and we must all help the organisers at Bristol to keep the pool membership intact and so far as we can encourage more people to join.

What of the future for the Society? Well, we have for some months now been working on alternative fund-raising schemes. Money is notoriously difficult to make, and there is no easy method which is likely to produce large sums of money. A substantial effort will be made to raise more money in the Regions and the first experimental plans are now being discussed with the Manchester Groups. If we succeed, as we hope to do, in starting a Greater Manchester Fund Raising Campaign which will reinstate the Manchester area projects which have had to be cut out of the planning schedule, we can then see our way to starting similar campaigns in other parts of the country. We have set up a Capital Fund Raising Department at Park Crescent and the members of this Department are working on a scheme in the Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Berkshire area, and this has been named BOXON. Similar plans are in train for the East Anglian region.

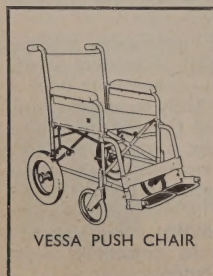
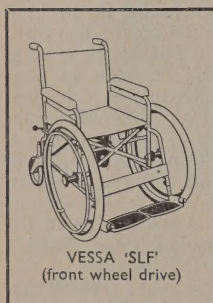
We have reviewed all the minor fund-raising schemes and cut out those which are not likely to produce a substantial income, and we are going to concentrate upon a small number of schemes which are likely to be successful. An extensive study will be made of Group fund-raising arrangements, and we hope to learn a great deal from this and incorporate some of these methods in our central fund-raising arrangements. There are other plans which it would not be proper for me to write about at this stage.

Readers can therefore be assured that everything will be done to fight back and maintain the momentum of the Society, but it will be a very hard battle.

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SPASTICS NEWS

JULY 1967
Vol. XIII, No. 5
Price Sixpence

The magazine of The Spastics Society

Editor: Oliver Beckett

THE SPASTICS SOCIETY

12 Park Crescent, London, W.1
Tel. 636 5020 (S.T.D. 01-636 5020)



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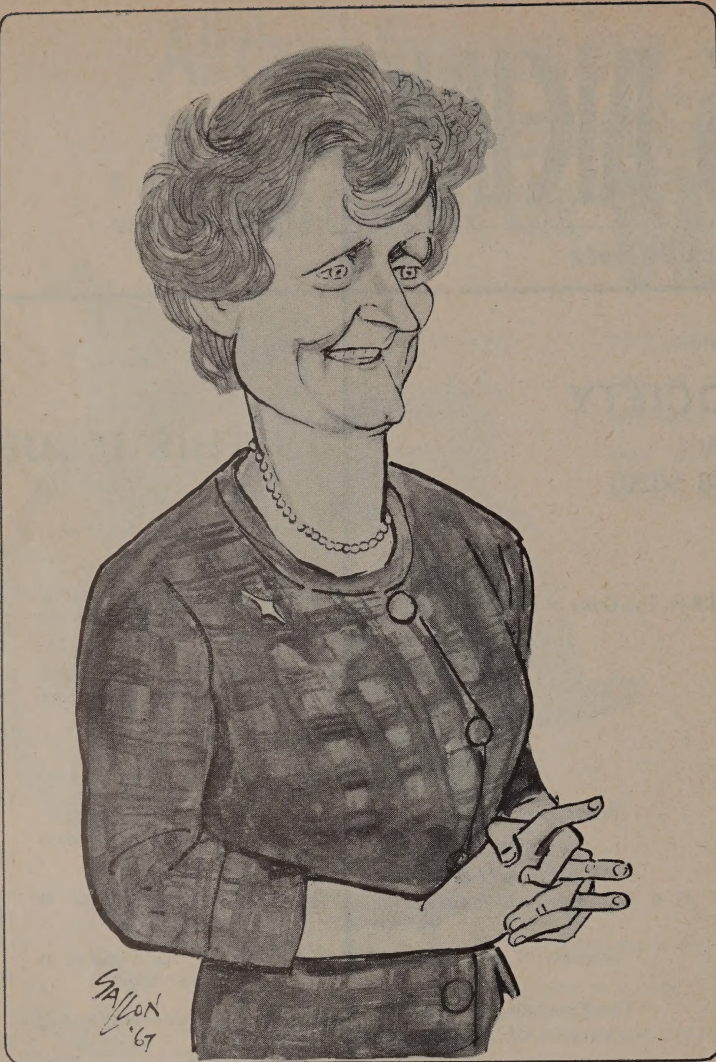
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Sketches
by SALLON

No. 1

**Miss M. R. Morgan,
M.B.E.**



NOW in her tenth year with the Society, Margaret Morgan lacks none of the zest or the application to detail that she brought to her job in the early days of the Employment Department. Trained at the Royal Holloway College, London University, and the London School of Economics, she has worked in the personnel side of industry and also as a nurse in New Zealand.

These two strands of her experience she brought together in her concern for the rehabilitation of the handicapped. She started the Assessment Courses, which have been a major factor in preparing thousands of spastics for employment, and has now seen over fifty of them take place.

As this side of the Society's work expanded, so did

Miss Morgan's responsibilities, and after the re-organisation of the Services Department in 1964, she was put in charge of the combined Social Work and Employment Department.

A tireless worker, and a fluent and persuasive orator, to everyone's pleasure, she was awarded the M.B.E. in the New Year Honours list of 1965.

Miss Morgan comes from Penarth in South Wales, and now lives in London. It will be her onerous task to organise the new Residential Assessment Centre in 16 Fitzroy Square—when it is ready in the Autumn. A long way from the office over an antique shop in the Euston Road, but one that opens up new paths to the future.



ON THE PLATFORM (L. to R.): Mr. W. G. Jehan, Miss Jean Garwood, Mr. J. F. G. Emms, Mr. H. W. Palmer and Mr. Alex Moira

A LONG, HARD LOOK AT PROSPECTS & POLICY

Fund-Raising in Question at Society's E.G.M. at Meldreth

THE Meldreth Training Centre, near Royston, Cambs., was the venue of this year's Extraordinary General Meeting of The Spastics Society and over 200 delegates from groups, most of the senior staff—including the Regional Officers, and members of the Executive and other Committees, gathered from all over the country on a sunny Saturday in the fine new Assembly Hall, for what turned out to be a long, hard look at the Society's work and future prospects.

The morning session, devoted to Society business, was chaired by the Society's Chairman, Mr. W. A. Burn, and conducted through the agenda by the Secretary, Mr. R. C. E. Cumplen, when tribute was paid to the memory of the late Director, Dr. C. P. Stevens and his great work for the Society in the last ten years of unprecedented expansion.

At 10.40, Mr. W. G. Thomas, nominee member for Gloucester and District Spastics Association, rose to propose the following resolution:—

That the publicity on behalf of the Society and Public Relations in general give cause for concern and this meeting urges the Executive Committee to give full consideration to this matter with a view to promoting better understanding of the Society's work by the general public.

Mr. Thomas proceeded to expand on this theme, saying that the Society was spending a lot of money on publicity, etc., but not getting full value for it. Good professional advice was not always the answer, it was the personal touch that was missing. Good P.R.—in his opinion—consisted in meeting people and talking to them—and of this, there was not much in the West. He thought the work of the Society was suffering from lack of public knowledge. 'Most people', he averred, 'just don't know what The Spastics Society has done and must do in the next ten years'.

He instanced how the Gloucester Group had raised £2,000 in the two years of its existence, and opened a successful shop. He did not want just to criticise, he said,

he only wished to make The Spastics Society even greater than it was.

In the discussion that followed, many delegates voiced a similar concern, but at the same time made some suggestions where the Groups could help themselves—and thus the cause in general.

Other points were: 'The public think that The Spastics Society is the wealthiest Society, so don't need money' (Cornwall); 'We were suffering from bad advertising in the past' (Sheffield); 'People don't realise what The Spastics Society has to keep up—national publicity is no help to local groups' (Worthing); 'The T.V. broadcast did a lot of harm' (Mrs. Rimell); 'Groups must get themselves in the local press' (Tees-side); 'Darts Clubs, Jazz Bands and Dolls to raise money' (North); 'More local effort and more help from 'upstairs' would be effective' (Lancs.); 'Events such as the Traction Engine Rally have been good fund-raisers' (Stamford); 'The M.E.V. was a wash-out unless it went round rural areas' (Hereford).

Mr. Stevens, however, ended with a plea for a better fighting spirit to cope with the occasional set-back. He wanted to see people support the Society, right or wrong and really crusade for it.



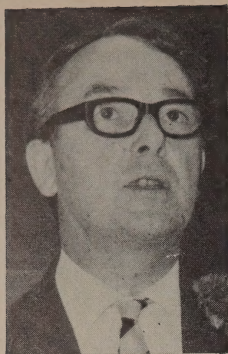
Mr. Bill Burn

Mr. Loring, the Deputy Director, responded to this by saying that P.R. is the responsibility of the Executive Committee in the final analysis, and helped by an expert firm of P.R. consultants and the Society's Information Officer, news of our achievements *are* in fact bruited abroad.

Advertising has been used in a small way, but he thought that the Legacy income could well be stepped up. It was sometimes just as important to avoid bad publicity as it was to mount expensive campaigns. Hand-outs to the local press had to be distributed judiciously, otherwise the palate of the News Editor is apt to become jaded.

Mr. Burn tried to take the steam out of the resolution by more or less agreeing

'capital expenditure cuts'



Mr. James Loring

with it, but Mr. Thomas insisted on putting it to the vote and it was carried.

After a break for coffee, the company reassembled to hear Mr. Burn, Miss Morgan and Mr. Loring speak to the theme: 'What more can local groups do for parents of spastics?'

However, in the absence of Mr. Alec Dickson, who was to have spoken on 'Youth and local Groups', Mr. Burn seized the opportunity to deliver an absorbing—and disturbing—"interim report on policy'.

This was a time for re-appraisal, he said, our objectives would be listed in the next few months. We could still fulfil the role of filling gaps in the Social Services, but charities should not be used permanently instead of the govern-

ment or to save rates. There would be a re-assessment of numbers and needs. The capital expenditure on centres and units of the last five or six years could not continue; in the first ten years, up to April, 1962, £1½m. had been spent, but today, five years later the corresponding figure was over £6m. In the same period capital grants of £750,000 have been made to Groups for their own projects.

In 1962, it cost the Society £140,000 to run Schools and Centres, and £50,000 for Groups to defray running costs. Now these deficits were running at £1½m. and £165,000 respectively.

What he called, 'The Building Society' phase must now end, otherwise, the total income of the Society would be absorbed in revenue expenditure in 1971.

There would have to be a drastic cut-back in national, small and group projects.

Our reserve of £5m. was static, while commitments have grown. Moreover, there was still the result of the Betting Pools Case to come, and if that went against us, it would cost us the contingency reserve of £800,000 set up to cope with it. Pools income seems to have a downward trend in any case.

After painting this rather gloomy picture, Mr. Burn then went on to implore the Groups to raise more money. Expanding services need expanding income, and here there was a great variation:

Group income reached £2,300 in one case and fell as low as £100 elsewhere, and from 1s. 3d. per head to .01d.

Eleven Groups raised £5,000 or more. About 80 Groups raised £1,000-5,000 and the rest, less than £1,000.

To put it in a different way, compared to local population:—

4 Groups raised	1s. 0d. per head
4 " "	6d.-1s. 0d. " "
81 " "	1d.- 6d. " "
53 " "	less than 1d. " "

—this meant in 1965/6, £300,000 was raised or 1½d. per head, in England and Wales.

Plans were *en train* for a boost to more distant areas and there would be a pilot scheme of a Fund Raising Committee in Manchester.

'We must', he went on, 'project an image of being capable, effective and humane, and also as desperately short of funds for urgent relief.'

National schools must be made self-supporting by higher fees from Local Authorities or by contributions from parents—they cost £½m. per annum.

It was inevitable that the grant to groups for running costs would have to be cut from its present level of one-third to one-quarter.

The Research Programme would continue with more emphasis on dissemina-



Part of the audience listen attentively to the Chairman



IN THE GARDEN: Mr. and Mrs. Williams from Monmouthshire with Executive Committee member, Mr. T. T. Rees and Shaun Mewis, Paul Williams and Jane Barker

The Society's E.G.M.

Another very important help, that needs no particular skill, is providing transport, either to visit a clinic or just to go for a drive somewhere. Groups that can organise a holiday caravan or bungalow are a great boon to the whole family, too.

Hard-working members should not complain about the odd grumble either, parents are bound to 'shop around' for help and advice and some of it may well be confusing or contradictory, particularly where medical terms are perhaps not clearly understood.

It is hoped that when the new residential Assessment Centre in Fitzroy Square (the present office of SPASTICS NEWS—Editor) gets going later in the year, that a more extensive counselling and supportive service will be available to families, where professional and voluntary workers will be able to meet and discuss common problems.

Miss Morgan concluded with a quotation from her church magazine which was appropriate to our own situation:—

'The voluntary society has not entirely lost its role as originator. It is still possible to discover need, and to meet it for a while before encouraging and pressurising the organised welfare set-up to cope with it.'

We, that is both voluntary and professional workers for the Society, have a calling to look with a clear eye, then first, to call attention to needs which are submerged and secondly to start things going and be glad when they are taken over by more competent hands or when the recipients no longer require us.'

'Looking Ahead'

Mr. James Loring, the Deputy Director, then addressed the meeting on: 'Looking Ahead'.

As usual, Mr. Loring managed to raise the level of discussion above the mundane, into the broader uplands of National and even international affairs. It is an exercise at which he is exceptionally adept, and indeed is essential at times when we tend perhaps to be buried in day-to-day routine matters.

Certainly seen against the hopes raised in the early days of the Beveridge Report, and the achievement in other countries the Welfare State in Britain has proved a very costly and complex instrument to administer and various anomalies in benefits and services are being perpetuated that need to be seriously tackled.

tion of information. Meldreth itself was an outstanding example of creative pioneering.

Meanwhile the Society's policy would remain flexible.

'Help for the Family'

Miss Morgan, the Social Work and Employment Secretary, then gave a most interesting talk on 'Help for the Family'.

Speaking with her usual quiet sincerity, Miss Morgan held a silent audience as from her wealth of experience, she made a plea for an approach to family help that is truly understanding and warm but without sentimentality.

She drew attention to the film 'Stress', that was made by a consortium of charities and prominently our own, and in which five out of the six cases pictured are spastics but including autism and epilepsy. (This has in fact been one of the most booked-up films the Society has ever handled.—Editor.)

The point that particularly arises from this film, is that the handicapped in general, and especially spastics, need to be viewed as part of a family. This is where great patience and understanding need to be exercised by Social Workers and home visitors—to give the help and advice that are so badly needed, not just what we *think* they need. It must be remembered that the brothers and sisters, as well as the mothers and fathers are in a situation of stress—which the re-

tarded one may not even be aware of.—Editor).

So what can local groups do in cases like this?

Miss Morgan explained that a paradox of the situation is that those most in need of help are very often those least able to help the work of a group. It is, as every one knows, very difficult always to be in the position of having to be 'grateful', but if our aim is to help the family group, as it must be, then we must be very clear about our aims as to what kind of help is needed to achieve a maturity of outlook: Is it money or outings? Is it new accommodation or appliances? Or is it merely a sitter-in?

Miss Morgan then went on to enumerate the various ways she thought local groups could be of assistance.

First, in educating the public, by distributing literature, giving talks, etc. Secondly, by bringing home to Local Authorities their responsibilities under the law for work centres, special residential provision and the rest. Thirdly, by knowing themselves how to go about obtaining invalid cars, holidays or 'green cards'.

Apart from these specific areas, there were, of course, a number of ways in which groups could improve their services to families with a spastic child, or adult spastics:

Friendly visits at home or in hospital are always much valued, and if occasion arises for playing games, writing letters and so forth, so much the better.

(Cont'd)

Amongst others, the physically and mentally handicapped still are greatly dependent on charities such as ours.

It had been made very clear, however, he said, that the hoped-for increases in benefits, etc., could only come out of the expanding income of the nation as a whole.

He then touched on the reactions of the public to the disabled or deformed which on the whole are rather cowardly and unsympathetic but these facts have to be faced when it comes to framing an effective appeals policy. For the situation now is not so much how to obtain a larger share of the cake, but rather how to maintain our present share.

The three fields of action still relevant to the Society of (1) Pioneering, (2) Gap-filling and provision of alternative services, and (3) Acting as a pressure group were still valid, although he thought that roles 1 and 2 were of less importance now—or rather means must be found of fulfilling them.

It was, he considered, as a critic, but a constructive one that the Society could meet the needs of the future, because in our field a great deal of the difficulty arises, not from a failure on the part of Government to take action, but rather from failures to take *effective* action. He

cited the National Plan for the Development of Community Care as an example.

He thought the public would still rise to the challenge of real need, but the Society for its part must modify its policy of providing a place for every spastic; it was just not possible.

He concluded with a warm commendation of the work of the staff of the Society—and an apt quotation from SPASTICS NEWS. Something to do with central heating!

After the formalities of the morning, it was most enjoyable to sit down to a really splendid chicken lunch provided in the dining-room, and have a chance to talk to delegates, free of the strain of note-taking.

After the meal which, considering the large number of guests, was served most expeditiously, members were free to go round the School. To me it seemed to be a bewildering network of inter-communicating passages, houses and courtyards, but with the trees out one had a reassuring sense of community in the complex of buildings; it is almost like a little village all to itself. Moreover, the children were such a jolly crew, which I must admit was a pleasant surprise in view of their many heavy handicaps.

Mr. D. Thomas, who was our guide, was enormously enthusiastic and convincing about what can be done for them. 'If they can use a hand,' he declared, 'we can teach them.'

O.R.B.

A POEM

by Robin Skells

TOMORROW NOW

You wake up in the morning. You feel a bit better after you sleep don't you?

And still somebody walks in the dormitory and says I hope you feel a bit better today. Well are you?

You get up, now please hurry up, now quickly now.

When you are having breakfast a letter to the door comes? sometimes to cheer you up a bit more. Doesn't it. But somebody makes fun of you, don't they? mummy and daddy write to you to find out all about how you are, Ha! Ha! Somebody shuts him up a bit don't they? and then they start to fight. Somebody says shut up and be quiet now please.

After breakfast go to work, now please hurry up, please. They are at work or school now and the teacher walks in and he says what have you been up too, eh! So it goes on and on and on and on.

Robin Skells lives at Kyre Park House, Tenbury Wells, Worcs., and would like to hear from other spastics interested in tape-recording, chess and draughts—or anything electrical. He's obviously something of a writer, too!—Editor.



(Above): A delegate from North London tries out the push-down tap fittings in one of the bedrooms at Meldreth. The other basin has large turning taps. The walls are of fire-resistant African moranti wood. (Right): The Editor holds young David Green of Harrogate by the hand, while he plays a game of football



Despite the Freeze . . .

MOST OF THE SOCIETY'S local groups have held Annual General Meetings over the past month, and despite the freeze, many treasurers' reports were encouraging. Boston and District made over £1,000 this year for the first time, while Shropshire raised £2,750 and have been able to provide a second holiday bungalow for spastics and their families; Dudley and District were fortunate enough to be left £1,000 in the will of an anonymous benefactor; Lancaster, Morecambe and District ended the year with nearly £1,000 in the kitty after paying expenses which included the purchase of a mini-bus; Cheltenham and District on the other hand had a deficit of £119, despite the fact that 5s. 8d. per head of the area's population had been raised.

Many Groups had also been able to extend local services to spastics, these ranged from Central Surrey's transport project for taking spastics to Kingston Work Centre to the Isle of Wight's plans for a new work centre and Exeter's proposed £56,000 day centre, both of which were expected to be open in summer 1968.

Impressive Speakers at West Midland Regional Conference

MR. A. TEGLA DAVIES, who needs no microphone, welcomed a large audience to the West Midlands Regional Conference held in Birmingham on 3rd June. Delegates from outside the Region, and from Groups in Warrington and Lancaster, joined the locals for this very successful event. Once again we thank the many representatives, too numerous to name, from local authority Health, Education and Welfare Departments who supported the occasion, and the Special Schools contingents who always give great support.

The guest speakers set a standard of excellence which it will be hard to equal. (Already the R.O. is wondering where on earth to find such talent for next year!) Mr. David Hutcheson, Senior Regional Officer (West), made a good understudy

for Mr. Loring, whose unavoidable absence was regretted.

Dr. John Foley, Physician to Cheyne Walk Spastics Centre, a detached investigator of probing, analytical mind, presented very succinctly some of the fruits of his intimate clinical studies. That he was able to hold the keen attention of a mixed audience which included paediatricians and other professional people as well as parents and ordinary laymen is a tribute to his talents and personality.

Mrs. E. M. Milnes of Manchester, assisted by her projectionist, gave us frequent glimpses of the dynamism for which she is justly famous. With others like her working for spastics in Manchester the outstanding achievements in specialised child care in that area can be readily understood.

Mr. Arno Rabinowitz, in a series of delightful colour slides interspersed with lucid descriptions and a light touch of humour, demonstrated an enlightened approach to the care of handicapped children at Katherine Elliot School.

The advice of Miss Booth, Senior Family Caseworker, of Mr. Mahoney, now Deputy Education Officer of the Society, and of Mr. Michael Townsend the Regional Social Worker, was often sought by questioners during the afternoon panel, and these three staff members got through quite a lot of case work and family counselling in the time allotted!

Then Miss Jane Markham, Organising Officer of the Birmingham Young Volunteers Trust, and of various other youth bodies, enlivened delegates (somnolent after a good lunch) with a taste of her special brand of elixir in the form of a talk on 'Youth and Service'.

Had you heard of 'PHAB'?—It is an amalgam of spastics, mainly from Broadstones Hostel, and young people who are not wasting all their time 'swinging'—of the physically handicapped and the able bodied.

During the course of the day an account of the Region was given to the Conference and Dr. Simon was elected to the Regional Advisory Committee in place of Mr. Robinson who has retired.

Mr. Shephard, Chairman of Coventry Group, proposed a vote of thanks at the close to the speakers, to which delegates responded with obvious enthusiasm and long applause. Public and private tribute was also paid to Mr. Tegla Davies, whose excellent qualities as Chairman were acknowledged by all.

I.C.R.A.

MAYOR OPENS NEW GOOLE CENTRE

The Mayor of Goole, Councillor T. A. Jaques accompanied by the Mayoress, Mrs. Jaques, seen at the door of the new headquarters of the Goole and District Spastics Society, with Mrs. E. F. Smaje, President, Mr. W. Sayers, Secretary, and Mr. Roland Whyte, Yorkshire Regional Officer. The Goole Society, which started twelve years ago with 2½d., has taken the lease of the Toc H room in Victoria Street, so they can now plan ahead for meetings and social activities. Hitherto, they have had to move from place to place, owing to the dearth of suitable accommodation. With voluntary labour, internal and external improvements have been carried out that include panelling, floor-covering, curtaining, lighting, improvement of toilet facilities and complete redecoration—it's a transformation, according to Mr. Whyte



(Courtesy: Norman Burnett)

ws . . . news and views

Miss Munday's Hero

COLUMNIST GODFREY WINN recently invited readers of 'Woman' magazine to say which celebrity they would like to invite to lunch, and one of the replies published came from a spastic girl, Miss Dorcas Munday, of Wellingborough, Northants. Miss Munday chose Group-Captain Douglas Bader as her lunch companion, because, she says, 'His book *'Reach for the Sky'* . . . gives me the courage to go on fighting my handicap and overcoming it to the best of my ability. . . .'

Miss Munday, who is secretary of the Physically Handicapped and Able-Bodied Club writes her letters by striking the keys of a typewriter with a stick held between her teeth.

The Milk of Human Kindness

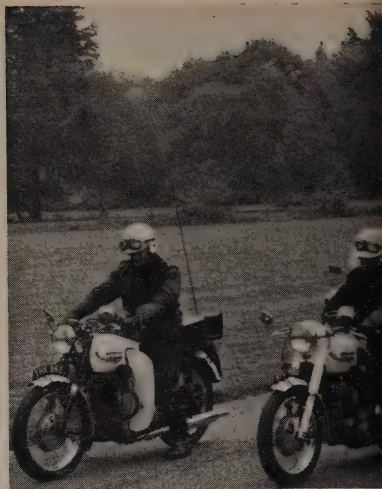
AT THE A.G.M. of the Bournemouth, Poole & District Spastics Society, the Mayor of Poole, Alderman F. G. Rowe, complimented the Group on its many fine achievements. 'Helping those who cannot help themselves is something to be proud of', he told Group members, 'And I am

personally very proud of you'.

Alderman Rowe has also offered to pay for the children's milk supply at Langside Road Centre now that the free supply under Government grant has ceased. Under a new ruling, the Ministry of Education recently decided to discontinue supplies of free milk to schools which are not officially registered. Earlier this year, Langside applied for registration but was turned down. Alderman Rowe intends to foot the milk bill for all of the summer term at least, in the hope that it will shame the Government into resolving the problem. 'There is no doubt', he said, 'that these people at the Spastics Centre are doing a first-class job, deserving of every support'. (See May SPASTICS NEWS, Langside—the Unknown School.)

Out of Control

FIVE GIRLS aged from 14 to 16 were recently charged at Ripon Juvenile Court with stealing moneys from spastics' and other collecting boxes. The mother of one 15-year-old said in Court: 'I cannot control her—she does what she likes'.



And Now Rochdale

A NEW GROUP HAS RECENTLY been formed at Rochdale, under the Chairmanship of Alderman Cyril Smith.

En Garde!

A MEDIEVAL YORK tower which has been used since the 13th Century for fencing practice may soon be used for the same purpose by spastics. The York Fencing Association has been using the upper floor of Marygate tower for some time, and the ground floor has now become available so that spastic members of the Association will be able to use it for wheelchair fencing.

A Society Tie

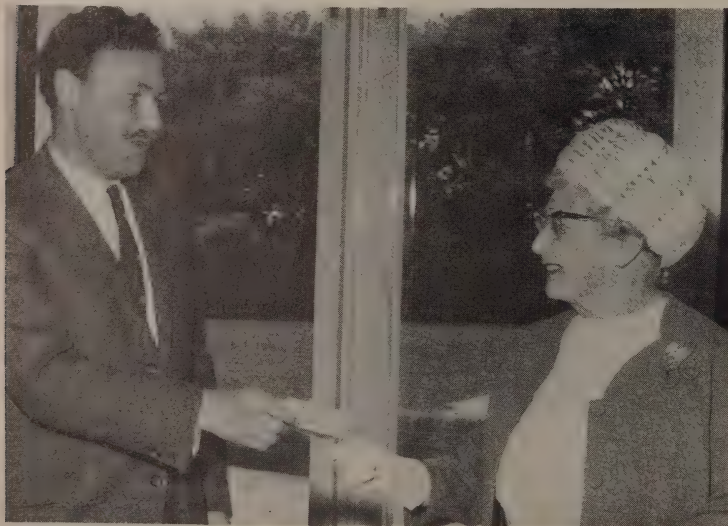
IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED that the Spastics Society should have a tie for the male supporters of the cause to sport on sundry occasions. There is already a Beacon Club Tie, but this one should be of a design suitable for staff and voluntary workers and Group members to wear as identification.

It should be suitable for wearing, and possibly of a plain background colour with a repetitive symbol incorporated in the pattern, but NOT the standard Society symbol. It should also be possible to be produced as a silk square for the ladies to wear as a scarf or headscarf.

Designs are invited for this, but we regret no prizes are offered.

In the Next Issue

- An interesting picture feature on some centres for spastics in Asia.
- Experiences on Holiday by Roger Daniel of Birmingham and Leslie Parker of Coombe Farm.
- Another delightful children's story by Ann Hughes.



A cheque for £1,500 to buy medical and surgical equipment for The Spastics Society's new Thanet Hospital School Unit at Broadstairs, Kent, being presented to Mr. D. R. H. Lancaster-Gaye, Assistant Director Services, May 18, by Mrs. G. I. Pickard, chairman of the Thanet Group, who recalled that they had started ten years ago with a £5 donation



Forty-four residents from Prested Hall and The Grange, Kelvedon, were given a grand outing in May, by the Three of Clubs Sidecar Club, Harlow. They went on a 30-mile round trip to Maldon, where they had a picnic. The convoy had four police outriders too, to help them on their way

Midland Spastics Week

THE MIDLAND SPASTIC ASSOCIATION in Birmingham has recently organised a highly successful 'Spastics' Week' which was heralded by the visit of the Mobile Exhibition Vehicle to the Bull Ring Centre in Birmingham. The two events which launched the week were ones in which appropriately enough, spastics themselves played a leading part.

On the first Saturday, the Association's *Helping Hand Youth Club* organised a Sponsored Walk from Bewdley Town Hall to the M.S.A. Centre in Harborne—a distance of some 20 miles. About 140 young people from schools, colleges, church groups, clubs, Guides, Scouts, Boys' Brigade and a group from the Blood Transfusion Service, joined with leaders and spastic members of the *Helping Hand Youth Club* and the walk was officially started at the Guildhall in Bewdley by Sir Tatton Brinton, M.P. for Kidderminster, and Lady Brinton.

Conditions on the day were perfect and very few walkers fell by the wayside, in fact, the first one home arrived exactly 4 hours 10 minutes from the start.

The H.H.Y.C. hero of the day was John Plevy who valiantly did the whole walk, but congratulations are also due to all the other spastic members who did the three to six miles asked of them. A grand total of £400 was raised and this exceeded the original target more than four times.

On the same day, the *M.S.A. Pathfinders Club* for older spastics organised a Grand Fête, Dance and Barbecue in the M.S.A. grounds. The Club had concentrated largely on inviting visitors from the Harborne area, many of whom must have often passed by the Centre and wondered what went on inside. This assumption proved correct for there was a fantastic turnout. Gaily decorated stalls

and sideshows and a Maypole made a colourful display and a visit by the Birmingham City Police Pipe Band completed a most attractive picture. The final takings for the Fête and Dance were just a little short of £300!

During the week a number of smaller events were held which, though they missed the limelight, made a valuable contribution to the week's efforts. These included a concert at a nearby works, two coffee evenings, a bingo session, a dance, and a cheese and wine party. Between them these events organised by the Birmingham Parents' Group raised another £200.

During the 'Spastics' Week' and the preceding week the Association had permission from the Birmingham City Watch Committee to promote a house-to-house collection throughout Birmingham and to terminate the week in style with a flag day on the final Saturday. This indeed brought the week to a grand conclusion for the takings for these two major collections amounted to only £2 short of £1,800! And so they ended up . . . elated and exhausted!

Of course, we had a great deal of help and we must express our thanks to many people . . . to the walkers and sponsors on whom the success of the Sponsored Walk depended and the organisers and marshalls who made

... news an

it all run smoothly (and without mishap); to Sir Tatton and Lady Brinton; to the Birmingham City Police Pipe Band, and to the hundreds of people who sent gifts for the Fête and then came along and spent their money; to the parents who organised the mid-week events; to the Birmingham Watch Committee whose co-operation in suggesting the dates for our flag day made such a tremendous contribution; and not least to the M.S.A. staff who always do so much more than the normal call of duty.

Amendment

It has been pointed out that the caption to the photograph on p. 6 of June Spastics News conveys the wrong impression. The picture of Andrew Parsons was taken at the Centre 'conceived and provided by the West Bromwich County Borough'. Mrs. Carroll was not to blame for this misunderstanding.

Congratulations

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Ling, are happy to announce the safe arrival of twins on 13th April—brothers to their daughter Margaret.

Bill is a spastic and his wife, Sheila, is dumb, but they are both active members of the Cambridge and District Group.



Over they go! Mr. Leslie Howard pushes over a pile of pennies collected by the customers of the 'George & Dragon', Swanscombe, Kent, in January, 1967. Mr. Howard, Managing Director of H. A. S. Construction Ltd., later handed a cheque to licensee Mr. Syd Dowe, trebling the money on the pile to reach a total of £33. Several members of the North West Kent Spastics Group attended this very enjoyable function

New Unit at St. Vincent's Hospital

—an example
of successful
co-operation

ANNE PLUMMER
REPORTS



Cardinal Heenan stops to say a word to a spastic child during his tour of the new unit at St. Vincent's Hospital

A NEW SPASTICS' UNIT was opened on 10th June at St. Vincent's Orthopaedic Hospital, Eastcote, Pinner, by His Eminence Cardinal J. C. Heenan, Archbishop of Westminster. Started in 1912, this hospital is run by the Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul. It is still maintained by voluntary contributions and The Spastics Society has given £90,000 to enable the nuns to extend their facilities for spastic children.

The opening ceremony took place in a large assembly hall, at the back of which was the hospital shop where, one of the nuns told me proudly, 'We sell everything—except beer!' After an address of welcome by Capt. F. H. Formby, Chairman of St. Vincent's Board of Management, Cardinal Heenan rose to make his speech. A slight difficulty in adjusting the microphone was quickly turned into a joke, which set a note of happy informality for his whole visit. The Cardinal said that he did not intend to make a long speech as he wanted to spend more time looking round the wards. He spoke a few words to the nuns and nurses of the hospital, encouraging them to go forward joyfully in their work, even if some of their patients were unable fully to appreciate what was being done.

Then he expressed thanks to The Spastics Society for their generous gift and also to the voluntary workers of the Good Neighbours and the St. Vincent's Association. His Eminence concluded his speech by unveiling a commemorative plaque which was to be placed in the new ward.

Seconding Capt. Formby's vote of

thanks, Mr. J. A. Loring, the Deputy Director, gave an interesting talk which covered a great deal of ground in a short space of time. He said that while the Sisters of St. Vincent de Paul were an international Catholic order, nearly 350 years old, The Spastics Society was a national non-denominational body founded only 15 years ago but the most important thing the two had in common was the care of handicapped children.

He felt that the quality of a society was shown in its attitude towards the handicapped. The concentration camp horrors of the last war were mainly remembered because of the sufferings of the Jewish people, but it was also significant that few middle-aged or elderly handicapped people were still alive in Germany today. Far from following Hitler's example of the gas-chambers, society had a moral responsibility towards its handicapped members.

'Serious Blow'

Mr. Loring then touched upon the serious blow to the Society caused by the decision in the Football Pools case. He concluded by saying that the occasion was marked by a certain sadness that Dr. Stevens could not have been there. Although, as a Catholic, the late Director had felt bound to stand back and let others decide whether a grant should be made to St. Vincent's, the decision to do so was very much after his own heart. 'It would have given Dr. Stevens great pleasure', he said, 'to have come here today and seen the use to which the money was being put'.

After the speeches, the Cardinal came down from the platform and taking the hand of a little patient, led the guests out of the hall on a tour of the wards.

The Holy Child Ward was opened in 1965. It has beds for twenty-four babies and The Spastics Society contributed half the building costs. It consists of a large sunny playroom with plenty of toys which encourage the children to move around, and a nursery where about a third of the cots were occupied by children who could not get up. Two or three of these babies were heart-breaking cases with large mongoloid heads or deformed limbs, who regarded nurses and visitors alike with an apathetic stare.

The adult wards in the older part of the building are pleasant semi-circular structures with large french windows opening out onto verandahs. The hospital is set on a hill and from the wards it is possible to see for miles over North-west Middlesex, which is surprisingly green and wooded. On this June afternoon the rhododendrons and the pink blossom of the chestnut trees made a glorious sight.

St. Mary's Ward, the newly-opened unit, is some distance from the main block. It was built by The Spastics Society at a cost of £67,000 but will be staffed and maintained by St. Vincent's Hospital Board. It accommodates twenty severely handicapped and educationally sub-normal spastics aged between 5 and 12. It is a spacious single-storey brick building with its own treatment and therapy sections. There are classrooms where lessons will be given by a teach-

Pleasant Ceremony at Jacques Hall

—motor-coach presentation

ing staff of five and a large games room with television, etc., which can be divided by sliding doors.

In the middle of the afternoon there was only one occupant of the dormitory, with its gaily-checked bedcovers (blue in the boys' room, deep pink for the girls). All the other spastics were outside, enjoying the sunshine and the excitement of the visitors.

After his tour round the building, the Cardinal joined about fifty other guests at a delicious tea in the nurses' dining-room. He finally departed at 5 o'clock with a cheerful wave from his car and the afternoon ended on the same happy note with which it had begun.

This venture is an example of successful co-operation between two bodies. In view of the Society's financial position it seems likely that much of our future work may have to be done in conjunction with other organisations. It was encouraging to see at St. Vincent's Hospital, the happy outcome of such a collaboration.

AFTER A LONG and arduous drive in the heat from London to reach the true Essex countryside, we, Mr. Summers, Mrs. Joan Pedler and myself, were rewarded by the truly idyllic valley of the Stour, and a distant view, if not of 'cloud-capped towers', at least of romantic neo-Tudor twisted chimneys and the solid gabled, red-brick outline of Jacques Hall, nestling, if one may be permitted the cliché, amid a bower of tremendous trees, copper beech, larch, elm and chestnut.

The object of our odyssey was no golden fleece, but a shining, special, super motor-coach 'all purple and gold'—the result of fifteen months' hard work by the Friends of Jacques Hall. They had raised £2,000 by all the usual means, bazaars, jumble sales, barbecues, tombolas, but pursued with unusual vigour and tenacity—particularly as regards inviting donations.

The coach, a 41-seater, made into a 39-seater, cost £1,175, and the vicar of

the parish of Bradfield, the Rev. J. Payne, in his amusing speech to the hundred guests and friends assembled in a small marquee in the grounds, described with much humour how he, the Chairman of the Friends, and two committee members had unearthed it in a lonely garage at dead of night, tried it out, and 'not found it wanting'.

It was a pleasant occasion, made more so by the affability of the Warden and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Devonport, and by the really lovely vases of flowers decorating the tent and the house, all arranged by Mrs. A. Lewis.

The Lord Lieutenant of Essex, Col. Sir John Ruggles-Brise, in the official presentation of the coach to the Centre, warmly commended the voluntary workers, 'who, of course, receive no monetary rewards, but the satisfaction', he said, 'that you get from helping others less fortunate than yourselves, must be enormous'.

Mr. Norman Summers (Deputy Head of Centres), ably deputising for Mr. Kettlewell, proposed a vote of thanks, and took the opportunity of pointing out that charities were facing rising costs, particularly in respect of the maintenance of properties.

'It is, however, particularly encouraging to see local people giving such tangible support to the centre. Their contribution releases funds for use elsewhere within the society.

'Perhaps the most important benefit to be gained from this gift is that the coach will help people at the centre to integrate with those in outside life', said Mr. Summers.

The voluntary workers are already planning to raise money for the maintenance and running costs of the coach and with this aim in mind, a garden fête was held on 24th June.

The hall, set in 23 acres near the Stour Estuary, was opened two years ago by the Society as a residence for 15 young adults suffering relatively light physical handicaps.

It was pleasant, too, for us, the visitors, having been presented with white carnations, to wander round the house guided by helpful members of the staff (wearing pink carnations), and see how spic and span was the whole place, from bathrooms, to kitchens and loos.

Absolutely spotless. The company took a delicious tea provided in the hall, and met the residents who were in their very nicely decorated common room.

The fabrics, furniture and colour schemes generally were most attractive, reflecting, no doubt, the woman's flair for such things of Mrs. Devonport.

The journey back through the mêlée of traffic on the Southend road was made more tolerable by the memory of the afternoon.

O.R.B.

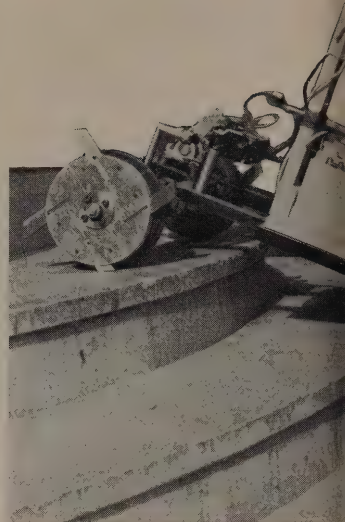


Col. Sir John Ruggles-Brise hands the engraved brass plate to Mr. Devonport, while Friends of Jacques Hall, the Rev. J. Payne, Mrs. C. Wright, Chairman of Tendring R.D.C., Mrs. Devonport, Mrs. K. Smith and Mr. N. Summers look on

The Sixth International
HOSPITAL EQUIPMENT
and MEDICAL SERVICES



The Minister of Health, Mr. Kenneth Robinson, being greeted by Mr. Derek Lancaster-Gaye, Asst. Director Services, and Mr. Nicholas Elwes, Appliance Officer, on the stand



The extraordinary machine invented by the Mary College which can climb stairs. The position; it is now

THE SOCIETY was fortunate in being offered a large space in the Hospital Equipment and Medical Services Exhibition, at Olympia last month, by Contemporary Exhibitions Ltd., the contractors for the sponsors: The Institute of Hospital Administrators and 'The Hospital' magazine.

Our stand, which occupied 2,000 sq. ft. and made an impressive display in the gallery, was designed by Frank Weeks, and carried out by the Display Contractors, Messrs. Weddell-Raven under the control of Mr. Richard Murdoch.

It was the first time we had taken part in this exhibition, of which this was the sixth in the bi-annual series, and as it was the largest so far, with no less than 270 exhibitors, it proved an admirable means of drawing the attention of the people who matter to the Society's work in influencing the design of equipment and fittings adapted to institutional care and also to aid the handicapped in independence in the home.

The Minister of Health, Mr. Kenneth Robinson, who opened the Exhibition in the Pillared Hall—fitted with closed-circuit television, gave a most thoughtful survey of the problems facing the Health Service, particularly as regards gearing the available manpower to the available equipment. 'The Medical, Scientific and Technical services must work together', he said, 'and the scale of any project must be determined by the resources that can

be provided. Sometimes a project means a single large and expensive machine, and sometimes a team of skilled practitioners'.

Dr. Alphonsus D'Abuen, the Head of Surgery in Birmingham University, on the other hand, painted a gloomy picture of the state of the supply of doctors. There were 40,000 in the Health Service, half of whom were of foreign extraction, and at the present rate of 2,500 students passing out each year, by 1970, we would be 3,000 doctors short. We were about 1,000 short at the present time.

When the Minister visited the stand, he was greeted by Mr. D. Lancaster-Gaye, Assistant Director Services, and Mr. Nicholas Elwes, Appliance Officer, and shown around.

He saw how it had been split up into sections, each one showing some particular aspect of our work, Aids for Bedroom and Bath, Cooking and Eating Aids, Children's Aids, Ideas from Spastics and their Parents, Aids for Treatment and Access for the Disabled. Four new, very foldable wheelchairs, all aiming at getting into the boot of a Mini-car, were on display in their collapsed state by Bencraft, Vessa, Barrett and Newton, under the Aids for Mobility section.

Aids to Communication were particularly interesting to the Minister and he was shown the Danish and Sheffield remote-controlled typewriters, with enlarged keyboards, as well as the Possum-operated typewriter, together with a

photograph of Mr. Richard Boydell, using his amateur radio. Mr. Elwes pointed out the wonder that Mr. Boydell could now communicate more easily with a radio operator in North America by this method than he could by speech with someone in the same room as himself.

The section on Aids by Students and Research Workers created particular interest and included continuous films of both the stair-climbing carriage (shown above) and the eight-legged 'Moonwalker' developed in the U.S.A., which has an action similar to a horse's.

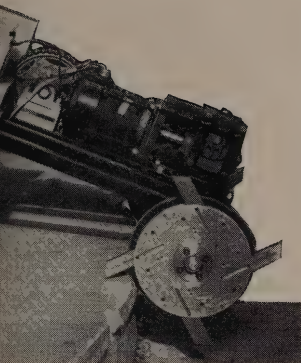
Apart from all this, there was a section showing five of our largest establishments, and also scale models of Drummonds, the replacement for Prested Hall, and the Thanet Hospital School Unit.

Ten companies also participated in the Spastic Society's display:—

Clarke & Smith, Manufacturing Co. Ltd.; Commercial Motion Pictures; Fisher Bendix Ltd.; H. S. Fraser Ltd.; L.M. Furniture; G. McLoughlin & Co. Ltd.; Permapure (Commercial) Ltd.; Shell International Chemicals Ltd.; Shildon Carpet Co.; R. S. Waddington Ltd.; Mr. H. H. Richardson, Manchester Division; Western Contracts Ltd.

There was the excellent big washing-up machine the Autodose, made by Waddingtons on their stand, and two London spastics, Miss Kathy Maher and Mr. L. Andrews, were demonstrating the ease with which it can be operated. The Managing Director, Mr. H. H. Richardson, was more than grateful for their assistance. (See *Stop Press item*.)

NG DISPLAY at OLYMPIA



Development Department of Queen shown here has no seat attachment in electric batteries



The stand was a striking exhibit in the gallery of Olympia, with its multi-coloured fascia and bold panel design

Two spastics from Woodford, Miss Daphne Field and Mr. Colin Smith, were also lending a hand with the domestic detergent attachment for sink taps.

The rest of the Exhibition was mainly concerned with hospital apparatus such as sterilisers and surgical instruments, and there was little that was revolutionary in the field of aids for the handicapped.

One ingenious item, however, was a hydraulically-operated bath which tilted into a vertical position so that a disabled person could stand in it, and gradually lower the bath (with himself inside) onto a horizontal plane. This was, naturally, rather expensive but by eliminating the need for an attendant to help the patient in and out of the bath could free staff for other duties. The same firm showed a washbasin which could be raised or lowered to suit wheelchair users, and also a shower cabinet with a non-slip base large enough to take a wheelchair. The trouble here is that the chair would get wet too. I wonder how many wheelchairs would stand up to that kind of treatment.

Another feature of the exhibition was the Lister Centenary Display, which was particularly interesting in view of the fact that Lord Lister once lived at 12 Park Crescent. However, it was disappointing that there were no letters or other papers on show headed by this address.

Gardening for the Disabled Exhibit at Chelsea Flower Show wins Silver Medal

ONE OF THE MOST COLOURFUL events of a London summer is the Chelsea Flower Show, where the rain falleth alike on petal-hatted dowagers, gnarled old countrymen and SPASTICS NEWS reporters.

This year, for the first time, a special garden for the disabled was featured at Chelsea. This was organised by the Disabled Living Activities Group of the Central Council for the Disabled, under the chairmanship of Lady Hamilton.

Occupying an excellent corner site at the Embankment end of the Royal Hospital grounds, adjacent to the Red Cross and the refreshment tents (!), the display elicited considerable interest from the public.

Designed in the form of a pergola-ed terrace, each bay demonstrated some particular point, either of tool or technique, with the aid of panels of well-chosen photographs and captions.

Mr. Stuart, the horticulturist in charge,

resplendent in kilt and sporran, was on hand to answer questions, and Lady Hamilton herself was showing visitors round.

They were both very proud of the silver medal award that the R.H.S. had presented to them in recognition of the educational value of the stand—on the very first occasion that they had taken one at the show.

The therapeutic value of horticulture for the homebound has long been recognised and a panel of experts was recently set up to study how gardening could be made easier for the handicapped. Two study gardens were laid out at Mount Vernon Hospital and the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre, Oxford, where testing of tools could be carried out by the patients. As a result of these trials, various modifications in tool design were suggested and many new ideas were on show at the Chelsea exhibit.

There were spades and forks specially adapted for one-handed use, others with thick rubber-reinforced handles for easier grip and still more with extra long or telescopic handles. For the ambulant, there were deep, lightweight wheelbarrows and a slow-speed motor mower which operated at only one-third of normal walking pace. Also shown, were flowerbeds and frames raised to a height of two or more feet, to allow easy access from a wheelchair. Instructions for

(Continued overleaf)

STOP PRESS:

We have just heard from Mr. E. H. Jewell, of the Paddington Works Centre, to say that Kathy Maher is to start work on the 3rd July, for a firm of surgical appliance makers in North End Road. This is a direct result of meeting one of the Directors of the firm on his stand.

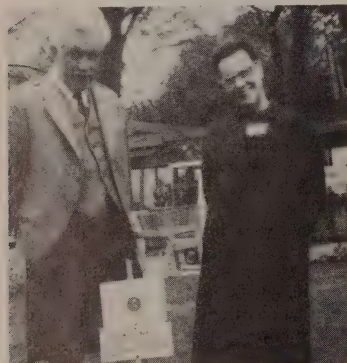
Chelsea Flower Show (Cont'd)

making these beds can be obtained from the Disabled Living Activities Group. Another boon to the wheelchair user was a greenhouse with extra wide sliding doors.

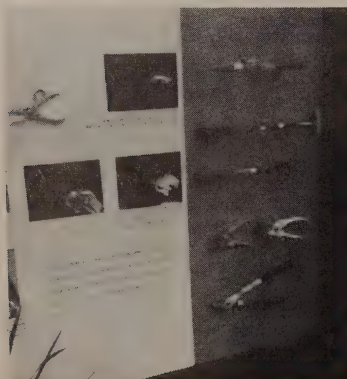
The gravel-strewn beds on the shelves on which the pots of plants were standing, were watered by automatic hopper bottles, which circulated through pipes to be taken up by capillary action.

Another ingenious device, which, of course, is used by non-handicapped gardeners too, was a ventilator which opens by a self-activating piston under thermostatic control, i.e. when the temperature rises above a certain point, the ventilator opens; when it falls, the ventilator closes.

A leaflet containing useful hints and suggestions has been issued by the panel and it is hoped that a permanent garden for the disabled will soon be on exhibition at the Garden Centre, Syon Park, Brentford, Middlesex.



Mr. Stuart, Horticultural Adviser, and Lady Hamilton, pose by their prize-winning card for an Educational Exhibit



A panel of tools of various kinds affixed to a board, showing how adoptions can be made for handicapped people



Princess Margaret congratulates Suzanne Purnell from Thomas Delarue School on her prize-winning portrait in chalk

Princess Margaret meets Suzanne at I.C.A.A. Painting Exhibition

IT WAS WITH SOME APPREHENSION that your correspondent attended the opening of this exhibition of paintings by handicapped children at New Zealand House. Such exaggerated claims are so often made about children's work, and the show last year by a different body at Qantas Gallery was such a sorry failure, one feared the worst.

There had, however, been advance publicity about prize winners from Thomas Delarue and having seen some of that work, one hoped for the best—and was not disappointed. The three distinguished painters who judged the exhibits, Dame Laura Knight, Mr. Tom Monnington, P.R.A., and Mr. John Ward, noted 'exceptional promise'. There were 500 drawings and paintings entered from 40 schools and 250 were on show, classified according to subject, age of the artist and disability and they certainly made a wonderful impression of vitality on the one hand, and some sensitivity on the other.

Sir Thomas Macdonald, High Commissioner for New Zealand, was there to welcome Princess Margaret, who had come to open the exhibition which was mounted in the spacious assembly hall. She is President of the Invalid Children's Aid Association, and in a few well-

chosen words, she expressed the aims of the show, which were to focus attention on ICAA week, by demonstrating what the handicapped can do. She then toured the show, stopping on the way to talk to the artists and their parents.

There were twenty-eight spastic exhibitors, including eleven from Ingfield Manor School, three from Meldreth Training School, and five from Thomas Delarue School. Twelve-year-old John Lloyd, who is an athetoid with partial hearing, was present in a wheelchair accompanied by Miss E. M. Varty, the Headmistress, and he had won a 2nd prize, with a clever representation of a sunflower. I also liked nine-year-old Gordon Hewitt's torn-paper collage, entitled: *Here is the Elephant*.

Meldreth's exhibitors also included a third prize winner who is a quadriplegic of nine, who had entered a remarkable abstract in yellow, purple and green.

There were three prize winners out of the five competitors from Thomas Delarue, and they were all present for the occasion, accompanied by the art master, Mr. T. Jeavons: Suzanne Purnell, 18, a special prize, Crystal McDermot, 16, a special prize and Martin Thompson, 17, also a special prize.

'62 CLUB NEWS

'Spastics News' Supplement, July, 1967

'You've got to Concentrate to Communicate'

I'VE ONLY JUST MADE the deadline yet again! If you want to age quickly, become an Editor—yes, even though it's only four pages, quarterly.

No, seriously though, it's extremely difficult trying to imagine from my office desk, what sort of articles you (wherever you are) are anticipating. Yes, this is another heartfelt, frustrated (literally of course), plea.

I'm about to stick my (big?) head in the noose and proclaim loud and clear that we (notice the 'We') spastics are downright lazy when it comes to transferring our thoughts and ideas to paper, even replying to letters or circulars. Go on, be honest with yourself and admit it...

I think that one of the chief factors, by-passing the usual ones like 'It takes too long', or 'I can't write very well', etc.—is lack of concentration. This isn't always a by-product of cerebral palsy, especially when you consider just how many people enjoy the task of letter writing. Most adults look on it as another duty to be performed for the sake of politeness and, of course, responsibility.

The ability to concentrate, as everyone knows, is something we have to work very hard at, especially in this modern age with its attendant distractions, i.e., television, wireless and telephone. Far be it from me to under-value these diversions, which are truly useful and entertaining, especially for disabled people, but unless we have the will-power to use them in their proper perspective, we will become social nonentities, with no ability to concentrate on our own actions.

It is so important for us as spastic people to be able to communicate with other people, and by doing so to project our own personalities, which in turn will minimise our other less attractive facets. I can think of no finer way of doing this, than to harness *your* (really force it) concentration, using also your powers of intellect and intelligence (of which I am sure you have much) and set pen or typewriter to work producing an article for the next supplement (October issue).

Marianne West.



Dr. Moe, head of the Toppenhaug C.P. Centre who welcomed the party to see his work, with two of his assistants

Topping Holiday in Norway

MEMBERS OF '62 CLUBS from all over England were among the party of 28 spastics on the recent holiday cruise which visited Kristiansand in South Norway on Thursday, 1st June. Soon after the ship had docked, Dr. Moe, head of the Toppenhaug C.P. Centre, came aboard to welcome us to Norway. He arranged for a coach to collect us and we were all taken to see the Centre situated high on a hillside overlooking the town some three miles away.

Toppenhaug is for spastics aged up to about 14 and at the present time has twelve resident and thirteen day children. It is one of nine such centres in South Norway which in all cater for the needs of between two and three hundred spastics.

As it was such a beautifully sunny day, most of the children were playing outside when we arrived. Our party was taken on a short tour round the building and then, over ice cream and apple drink refreshment, Dr. Moe gave a brief outline of the work of the centre since it was established some six years ago. There was physiotherapy and speech therapy for the children as well as two school classes. Some of the children actually attend ordinary schools in Kristiansand and additional special tuition can be given at the centre if this is found to be necessary.

After a very happy afternoon at the

centre, Dr. Moe and two of his staff kindly offered to guide us round the shops in Kristiansand before we returned to the ship. We were very grateful to everyone at Toppenhaug for their kindness and hospitality—it was certainly an interesting experience to have the opportunity of seeing what is being done for spastics in another country, and we must also express our thanks to Wendy Pearce, the Society's Holiday Organiser, for coming along to help, and also Brian Hargreaves, Bill's son.



Pam Metherell at the head of the table at a luncheon party

Up-to-the-Minute Club Register

BEDFORD

Mr. L. York,
16 Cedar Road,
Bedford.

BEXLEY & DISTRICT

Miss L. Hutchinson,
13 Tennyson House,
Albert Road,
Belvedere.

BRISTOL/BATH & DISTRICT

Mr. S. T. D. Turnbull,
2 Priory Road,
Keynsham.

BRIGHTON

Miss J. K. Smith,
Home Layne,
Avington Road,
Steving, Sussex.

BLACKPOOL

Miss J. Crawshaw,
202 Waterloo Road,
Blackpool, Lancs.

CARDIFF

Miss K. Flynn,
59 Bishop's Walk,
Llandaff.

CHESTER

Mr. D. F. Dwelly,
24 Linksway,
Upton.

CREWE

Miss B. Bavington,
126 Holland Street.

CUMBERLAND

Mr. J. Leviesley,
Scalescough Hall,
Caretton,
Carlisle.

DERBY

Mr. T. Martin,
56 Littleover Lane.

FALMOUTH

Mr. A. Passmore,
2 New Row,
Mylor Bridge.

LINCOLNSHIRE

Mr. E. Marriott,
Lincolnshire Spastic Work
Centre.
Brumby Wood Lane,
Scunthorpe.

LONDON

Miss P. Metherell,
12 Park Crescent,
London, W.1.

MAIDSTONE

Miss J. Ball,
'Pixley',
Orchard Drive,
Headcorn, Kent.

MANCHESTER

Miss E. Stead,
118 Stockport Road,
Marple, Stockport.

NOTTINGHAM

Dr. R. Firman,
67 Grove Avenue,
Chilwell.

NORTH LONDON

Miss M. Miller,
6 Sandwell Mansions,
West End Lane,
London, N.W.6.

NORWICH

Mr. S. Riches,
c/o Spastics Work Centre,
200 Bowthorpe Road.

OXFORD

Miss C. White,
7 The Park,
Camnor.

PORTSMOUTH

Miss V. A. Tyler,
2 Wadham Road.

SHEFFIELD & DISTRICT

Miss A. Ledger,
2 Ashgate Road,
Sheffield, 10.

SLOUGH & DISTRICT

Miss C. Standingford,
'Marba',
Victoria Road,
Farnham Common, Bucks.

SOUTHEND

Mrs. J. Evans,
'Coniston',
24 Mayfield Avenue,
Prittlewell.

SOUTH EAST SURREY

Miss D. Dare,
111 Blethingley Road,
Merstham,
Nr. Redhill.

SUNDERLAND

Miss M. Grummett,
15 Quarry Road,
New Silksworth.

WARRINGTON

Mr. A. J. Carman,
350 Padgate Lane,
Padgate.

WALTHAMSTOW

Mr. J. Queenborough,
6 Snakes Lane,
Woodford Green.

WATFORD

Mr. A. Storrow,
3 Fairway,
Hemel Hempstead.

WINCHESTER

Miss L. M. Sharp,
3 Itchen View,
Itchen Stoke,
Alresford, Hants.

YORK

Miss C. Hewitt,
5 Bracken Close,
Huntington.

INDEPENDENT CLUBS

BOURNEMOUTH

Miss A. Blades,
145 Ringwood Road,
Parkstone,
Poole, Dorset.

CROSBY

Number Five Club,
Miss B. Robinson,
'Number Five',
Marlborough Road,
Waterloo,
Liverpool, 22.

ILFORD

'Get-Together Club',
Mr. G. Linford, Jnr.,
26 Parkside,
Romford, Essex.

LANCASTER & MORECAMBE

Mr. A. McCorkell,
100 Dorrington Road,
Greaves.

LEICESTER

Miss F. L. Cook,
The Old House,
Filler Station,
Thornton, Leics.



SATURDAY, 8TH APRIL, was indeed a red-letter day for the London '62 Club, when a cheque for £100 was presented to Club Chairman, Peter West, by Elizabeth Riches, head girl of the Oakwood Secondary School, Southgate.

Miss Riches was accompanied by her headmaster, Mr. A. Woodrow, and Mrs. Woodrow.

How did this come about? Some nine years ago, Bill Hargreaves was invited to give a talk to a couple of classes at the school, and was then asked to present the prizes at the speech day the same year.

Close touch was kept with the school, both by Bill and Miss Shirley Keene. Last September, Bill was again asked to present the prizes at the Headmaster's final Speech Day before the School loses its separate identity. Naturally the London Club was delighted when they heard that part of the £300 donation the school was making to the Society was to go to them.

At a special request of the school, the Club Committee had to decide on a suitable memento to celebrate the occasion.

The money was spent on an antique silver vase, which will be awarded annually to a Club member whose effort has contributed most towards the success of the Club. (Seen left at the presentation.)

The Club is investing the remaining amount in an amplifying system, for meetings at Park Crescent, so that the Secretary can make her small voice heard above the hub-bub! This is being made by committee member, John Bundock. Also, 'London' are going to be able to subsidise twenty-five members to attend the forthcoming Conference at Reading as a result of this extremely handsome gift.

The Children entertain the Parents

DESPITE SEVERAL counter-attractions (including the Cup Final!) a good number of the friends of the school joined the staff and children in the main assembly hall for the annual distribution of prizes at Craig-y-Parc on the 20th May.

The proceedings were opened by Miss Miriam Jowett, M.B.E., J.P., Chairman of the School Management Committee, who welcomed the visitors, giving a special welcome to Mr. H. B. Davies, the ex-Headmaster of the Thomas Delarue School, who was later to present the prizes. Miss Jowett also spoke to the pupils of the school, who were seated on the platform and in front of the rows of the audience.

In her Headmistress's report Mrs. C. M. Kearslake spoke of the past year in the life of the school. A year free from building operations had meant that children and staff had been able to make full use of the new amenities. Although there was now in the school a larger number of children with severe physical and com-

munication handicaps, a full educational, treatment, social and recreational programme had again been followed. The Possum typewriter had proved of great value for children with communication difficulties, and extensive use of other electrical, magnetic and enlarging devices has been made to encourage the children to overcome their various problems.

The physiotherapists were making use of the swimming pool for therapeutical purposes (the pool is also used for recreation) and the speech therapists had been able to carry out audiometric tests throughout the school as a result of the purchase of an audiometer bought from a donation by a parent whose child has now left the school.

Many of the senior pupils attend either the Penttyrch Youth Club or the '62 Club of the Cardiff & District Spastics Association, while at the school itself there are flourishing clubs for those with interests in chess, photography or music. Most of the children take part in Red Cross,

Scout, Cub, Guide or Brownie activities, and during the summer months a selected group of children have been enjoying riding lessons at a local riding school. All the children have at various times been included in the extensive programme of educational visits and social events.

Good contact is kept with parents at all times, and during the year the parents of ten children have visited the school for residential case conferences. Mrs. Kearslake concluded her report by praising the warm goodwill and interest of the people in the area.

Several items of entertainment were given by the children. One small group had composed an original tune to an old nursery rhyme, and sang this to their own accompaniment on percussion instruments. The 'Craig-y-Parc Sages' concluded this part of the proceedings with a selection of poems and quotations both humorous and serious, providing keen interest to the hearers, and perhaps summed up in the words of an old Scottish toast, said with great feeling by one of the pupils:—

*Here's to you, as good as you are,
And here's to me, as bad as I am,
But as good as you are,
And as bad as I am,
I am as good as you are—
As bad as I am.*

Mr. Davies was amusing

Mr. Davies at once endeared himself to both the children and adults with his obvious kindness and sense of humour. His amusing story of how a lorry disappeared into an underground water tank during building operations at Delarue, must have made several small boys present wish that such exciting things would happen at Craig-y-Parc. Mr. Davies also spoke of the children who had passed through both Craig-y-Parc and Delarue.

Throughout the proceedings the children had been eagerly and patiently awaiting the presentation of the prizes for which they had worked so hard. Prizes were awarded for progress in school work, physiotherapy and speech therapy. Of equal importance were the awards for social progress and attainments in domestic science (for both boys and girls) needlework, woodwork, art, chess, photography, sports and swimming. A special presentation of the Good Citizenship Prize for the best pupil of the year (given by Dr. Charles Stevens), was made to sixteen-year-old David Atherton of Lancashire.

After bouquets had been presented to Mrs. Davies and Miss Jowett, a vote of thanks was expressed to Mr. Davies by Mr. S. P. Northam, Deputy Chairman of the Management Committee. Guests, staff and pupils then made their way to the main building where they enjoyed an excellent tea.



Mr. H. B. Davies with the prize-winners (L. to R. front row): Susan Brain, Martin Muhlenfeld, Linda Stevens and Peter Rodway. (L. to R. standing): Mr. H. B. Davies, Mr. S. D. Northam, vice-chairman of School Management Committee, Kevin Holmes, Mrs. C. M. Kearslake, Headmistress, Christopher Gibbins, Mrs. H. B. Davies and Brian Earle, holding cup



(Courtesy: Austin Underwood)

Mrs. Marjorie Burn was presented with a bouquet by Judith Underwood, in her first year, the youngest pupil at Delarue

SCHOOL PRIZE-GIVING DAYS are usually rather daunting occasions in the lives of most parents; the sight of the ushers in gowns and mortar-boards somehow has the effect—even on quite elderly parents—of immediately reducing them to the frame of mind when they were ‘in statu pupillari’.

Well-meant homilies on ‘life’s broad highway paved with good intentions’ and the need to ‘keep one’s head when all around are losing theirs’, suitably varied with admonishments to the slackers who are ‘letting the side down’, are generally enough to reconcile even the most obdurate pater to the annual—unavoidable increment to the fees.

But that is not the picture at Thomas Delarue.

Here, the outstretched hand of welcome from Mr. Mayhew, the Headmaster, the helpfulness of the staff, and the friendly faces of the boys and girls, combine to make of the occasion an informal get-together between the school and the parents.

Everyone, including representatives of the Physio, Occupational and Speech Therapy Departments, the Matron, the teachers themselves and Miss Peacey, the Society’s senior Careers’ Advisory Officer, were available during the day for discussions, and the good attendance of

‘Parents should contribute to their children’s education’ —

Mr. Burn’s plea at Delarue Prize-Giving

families and friends made sure that good use was made of the event.

The weather unfortunately made it necessary for the display of physical activities to take place indoors, in the morning, but it was no less enthusiastic for that.

After lunch the company assembled in the school hall for the main business of the day.

I am sure it has been said before, but I feel no reluctance in repeating it, but I could not help being struck once again, by the cheerful demeanour of the pupils, and remarking how tidy and nice they all looked in their maroon blazers and cotton frocks, or grey flannels, as the case may be.

An Act of Faith

This school, after all, was established in 1955 as an act of faith; there is no question, I think, but that it has confounded the sceptics and impressed even the most sanguine. As Mr. P. R. Mayhew said, this year, there were 47 passes out of 56 entrants in the G.C.E. at various levels—including one ‘S’ (James Woodward), eleven Duke of Edinburgh bronze awards, three silvers, and six firsts in the paraplegic games. Not a bad record by any standard. Mr. Mayhew made the audience chuckle when he spoke of the ready co-operation he had met on taking over recently from Mr. Tudor, when an 11-year-old knocked on his door, came in and said, ‘if there is anything I can do to help, just let me know!’

The Chairman of the Board of Governors, Mr. A. D. Delarue, spoke of the thrill of seeing each pupil growing in personality almost visibly, and indeed the school must succeed if it is as determined as the pupils to ‘fit them to lead their own lives’.

Mr. Burn, the Chairman of the Society, touched on the same theme when he quoted Wilfred Pickles’ aphorism: ‘If you try you might, if you don’t, you won’t’. ‘Most people are willing’, he said, ‘some to work and others to watch them do it’.

The main burden of his address, however, was devoted to the financial problems facing the Society. The net cost of Delarue School to the Society, he said, after crediting fees received from local authorities was £36,000 per annum. This was £400 per student over and above the fees received of £870 per annum.

The Society is reviewing its entire national policy and has come to the conclusion that these annual running costs must be eliminated.

The 40-odd schools, centres and workshops runs directly by the Society cost some £500,000 p.a. If this crippling burden could be overcome, the Society could use its funds more profitably to provide further services for spastics that are urgently needed. It may be necessary for parents to contribute towards the education of their children. If only they could set themselves the target of raising £200 each, the target would be achieved.

Fund-raising was becoming even more vital, and in making the work of the Society more widely known, SPASTICS NEWS itself should not be neglected as a medium of propaganda (Hear, hear, Editor).

‘Every possible economy would be made’, he concluded, ‘but if we work together, staff, voluntary workers, schools and centres and groups, we must succeed’.

Special Prizes and Leavers’ Presentations

Constance Bacon Prizes (For students who have made a special contribution to the life of the School):

Graham Burn
Kathleen Butterworth.

Florence Williams Prize (For a severely handicapped student who has made a great effort to become more independent):

Kenneth Smith.

Hilda Evans Prize (For endeavour and leadership in activities outside the normal curriculum):

Clifford Haynes.

Headmaster’s Prize:

Christopher Day.

School Leavers:

Rosamund Maxwell-Browne,
Graham Burn, Christopher Day,
Michael Jones, David Lane, Ann Ludwig, Derek Pearson, Suzanne Purnell, Edward Thomas, Martin Thompson, James Woodward, Roy Young.

Breakdown of Study Sessions at Castle Priory

Induction Courses for Teachers and Therapists ..	135
Care Staff from local group centres ..	34
Refresher Courses for Care Staff, Spastics Society and Local Authority centres and schools ..	121
Child Care/Houseparent Course ..	30
Induction Courses—Administrative and Headquarters Staff ..	72
Refresher Courses on specialised topics for Teachers, Therapists and Psychologists ..	150
Conferences and Study Sessions for Interprofessional Groups ..	139
Conferences of Voluntary Staff ..	58
Courses held in Centres away from Castle priory ..	133
	872

The participants came from:

Spastics Society Hostels and Centres ..	150
Spastics Society Schools and Education Units ..	147
Hospital Services ..	59
Local Group Staff (Voluntary and Professional) ..	149
Admin Staff and Social Workers ..	139
Local Authority personnel ..	216
Occasional and Overseas Students ..	12
	872

Much for visitors to see and learn at Castle Priory College Open Day

ON SATURDAY, 13th MAY, Castle Priory College held its Open Day to which members of local groups, local authorities and the general public were invited. It was one of the few fine Saturdays so far this year, and visitors were able to see the College and grounds at their best. The aim was to put the work of the College, and the work of The Spastics Society, before those likely to have personal or professional interest in the care or welfare of handicapped people, and to give more information about what is, and can be, done for spastics.

There were, therefore, displays of the work of the students of the College—including comprehensive charts of the content of the Houseparent Training scheme, and reports compiled from their practical activities, and also details of the timetables of the various short courses which have been operated at Castle Priory. One particular chart portrayed the facts about the students and conference members who have so far visited Castle Priory (see left).

Ingfield Manor School supplied a display of children's work and various photographs of the school's activities, and we were delighted that four members of the

family at Ponds came over especially to demonstrate the Possum machine, use of the electric typewriter, and craft work using a specially adapted head band.

Among the displays were some aids and appliances on loan from the Aids and Appliances Officer, but, in addition, a small room was devoted to a display of home-made aids and gadgets which the students from various courses had undertaken as part of their practical work. These included a selection of adapted games, percussion instruments especially designed for the handicapped, and various aids to daily living. There were also examples of some of the craft work done by adult spastics in their workshops.

Students Made Charts

The students had made various charts to demonstrate the range of the Society's work, and there were displays, including photographs of schools and centres, the range of activities of the Social Work and Employment Department, details of assessment procedures, and a further corner demonstrated the work of local groups.

A crèche in the grounds made it possible for mothers with young children to leave them in the care of some of the students while they listened to discussion or saw films inside the College. A panel, composed of Dr. D. Roberts, Assistant Medical Officer of Health for Oxfordshire, Mr. S. T. Allman, Head of the Centres Department, Mr. R. Nicholls, Headmaster of Tesdale and Bennett House Schools, Abingdon, and Mrs. J. W. Knowles, Principal, Castle Priory College, was chaired by Mr. R. S. Johnson, Tutor/Organiser, and dealt with some interesting questions on a variety of topics of both a personal and general nature.

We were delighted to welcome, in addition to the demonstrators, some of the family of Houseparents from Ponds, and also residents from the British Red Cross Society's Andrew Duncan Home near Henley.

The evening ended with an informal social for students and their friends.

It is hoped to make this kind of Open Day an annual event in the life of the College.



There was a good display of craft-work at the open day, and the visitors could also see residents of Ponds demonstrating the Possum operated typewriter

SPASTIC CHILD IN NEW PLAY

IT IS GOOD TO KNOW that 'A Day in the Death of Joe Egg' will be coming to London after its short run at the Citizen's Theatre in Glasgow in May.

The author, Peter Nichols, one of whose children is cerebrally palsied, achieved the almost impossible task of bringing successfully to the stage the situation of young parents with a severely handicapped spastic daughter who is unable to speak and is confined to a wheelchair. He depicts the situation with complete lack of sentimentality and with infinite humour and yet at the same time, through a series of flash-back speeches (made by both parents direct to the audience), captures all the tragedy of the situation which some parents of spastic children will know so well.

The G.P. for instance (when the ex-actress mother first senses something is wrong): 'Funny turns at your age, saucy little beggar,' and then, comfortingly, he adds that bringing up baby is 'rather like breaking in a new car'. The Viennese paediatrician: 'Your daughter was a we-getable'. A vicar, asked for advice: 'My dear the devil is busy day and night' and a reference to another disabled child who was 'runner-up in the south-west area tap-dancing championships'.

Small wonder that the wife, accepting and loving her daughter, hopes for 'magic' that will bring a cure and that the husband, a dissatisfied school teacher who has given up both hope and affection, nick-names his daughter 'Joe Egg' and turns to infantile joking not only in order to cope with the actual presence of the child but also to draw attention from his wife. The action of the play spreads over a few crucial hours of one day and by the end, after a disastrous visit of well-meaning friends and his clumsy attempt to end his daughter's life, the husband walks out of the house with the cold finality of a man who can stand no more.

Zena Walker, as the wife, and Joe Melia, as the husband, are supported by Barbara Goldman, Carole Boyer, Michael Murray and Joan Hickson—an impressive cast.

M.N.

Editor's Note: This play has been bought by a London Management for production later this year.



Miss Diana Gregory with her prize-winning Great Dane bitch, Sheba, at the Brighton Dog Show in aid of spastics

'Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen . . '

SPEAKING IN PUBLIC is something all of us have to do at some time or other. This particularly applies to those engaged in voluntary work, who attend meetings varying in size from a handful to a packed hall, but who need to speak with conviction and belief.

That is one reason why we welcome a new paperback book '*Persuasive Speaking*' which we picked up in a Charing Cross Road bookshop the other day. Another reason for the welcome is the author's name—W. George Jehan.

Could he, we wondered, be the man we knew, the man who serves on the Executive Committee, the Consultative Council, the Appeals Committee and various other committees? The same George Jehan, who with his wife, does so much for the Preston and District Spastics Group, and who we have heard speak so eloquently at opening ceremonies and other occasions? Yes, none other, and he tells me that the book just published in May is also available in hardback form.

With a few people public speaking is a gift, but many others have to overcome shyness and hesitancy. Belief, conviction and courage and fervour can help to find their own words but one first has to acquire, then learn to express these feelings. There are tricks of the trade which people like George Jehan himself had to learn the hard way when he was helping in the fight for spastics and when he was making his career in a sphere of local government work which also calls

for active public presentation.

Jehan believes that persuasive speaking—and this is the only kind that matters—depends on emotional speaking. In this book, he shows how to do it in a practical and realistic way. I have read many books on public speaking which could be termed text books but this is not that type of book. This book is alive. The author draws freely on experiences, anecdotes, history and practical common sense to illustrate his points.

In the opening chapter on 'Know Your Purpose', Jehan immediately interests the reader in a way which SPASTICS NEWS readers will appreciate with a glimpse of how he obtained through his own spastic son unity of purpose in serving the cause of spastics everywhere. When we have this, he writes, 'we can appeal for money without placing our tongue in our cheeks'.

He gives practical examples of how to awaken public interest, make your subject newsworthy, create an image, think in pictures, be informative, how to appeal for action, how to use your gimmicks, how to develop facial expression and eye power, how to develop the expressive voice, marshal your facts and test your speaking forms. With that knowledge, surely we can go out and conquer the world.

'*Persuasive Speaking*' is published by Elliot Right Way Books Ltd., 3/6d. paperback and 12/6d. hardback.

F.M.M.

BEACON KNOCKOVERS IN THE NORTH and SOUTH

There have been thirteen beacon club visits in the North this month; two of these have been carried out by Jack Howarth and at one he raised £31 from signing his autograph. Other well-known personalities who accompanied me during the month were Arthur Leslie (Jack Walker of 'Coronation Street'), Jean Alexander (Mrs. Ogden of 'Coronation Street'), Eddie Calvert, Brendon Locke, Thomas Bithell, the Mayor of Flint and The Clarke Brothers.

Members of the S.O.S. have very active this month knocking over beacons. Alan Freeman came with me to the *Prince Alfred*, S.E.17, on a wet Sunday evening, where the wonderful sum of £190 has been collected by the landlord allowing a doll to be placed at the entrance to his pub. The same evening Alan went to the *King's Arms*, S.E.17, to break open a demijohn with a hammer and the total from this together with cheques donated by friends of the landlord brought the money raised by this pub to the fantastic sum of £628.

Fortunately it was a sunny evening when *Muriel Pavlow* and I left London to visit the *White Bear* at Towcester. Having knocked over the beacon we were invited to play a special form of bar skittles which seemed rather dangerous as it was played with large wooden balls and safety nets had to be placed round the table to protect the customers!

The weather was kind again on two further summer evenings when *Jan Holden* came with me to the *Cannon* at Sunninghill and *Diane Hart* made the long journey to the *Red Lion* at Petworth. Both houses entertained the artists with splendid hospitality and everybody had a thoroughly enjoyable time.

'Call Boy'

The Psychologues Observed

Published by Hirschbein, Goldwater & Figs at 63s. 0d.

—being a group study of analysis in operation carried out under the auspices of the forde foundation, the Naafi-eld Social Science Laboratory, the C.I.A., Marx and Spencer, and British Railways Locomotives Research Institute.

Reviewed by The Society's Deputy Assistant (Managerial) to the Head of Assessments (known as Assessment Head) with special responsibility to the Administrative Secretary's Secretary on her day off.

IT SEEMS DOUBTFUL if Pavlov's beagles ever looked at their tormentor with the clinical detachment necessary for an in-depth evaluation of his procedures. The drooling processions of couch-fodder stemming from the middle-class Viennese households of the last years of the Austro-Hungarian Empire have taken more than half a century to fight back.

This then is the definitive squeak where the shoe pinches; the 'versus vermicularium' long-awaited on both sides of the Atlantic.

In preparation for 11(?) months, the elephantine gestation has produced a 'Mus Vulgus' of rare proportions and startling variegation of colour.

We see now—and how was it not seen before?—that the disturbed individual in his role of 'patient' is in effect the thera-

peutic catalyst for the solution of the investigator's own personal problems. The chapter headed: 'The Patient as Aesculapius' makes effective play with the duality interchange of personality (noticed by Carl Jung, c.f. Vol. XLVIII. 'The Janus Myth'), and stresses the ambivalence of the weaker character in situations of stress. (c.f. Dostoevsky, 'The Inquisitor').

The person who, for want of a better word, the authors still call—the 'patient', is in fact jealous of and antagonistic to his Physician; he resents his rich emotional private life, his deep brown voice, his blonde secretary, his apartment in a fashionable suburb. (Vide: Robert Ardrey, 'The Territorial Imperative').

And the physician, or 'psychologue' as the jargon goes, is guilty because he has no feelings of guilt. He feels himself above the moral criteria of the average man in a world of mechanical impulses fused in the crucible of an unhappy childhood and powered by the high-octane fuel of the ductless glands (q.v. Ernest Jones, 'Freud as the Father Figure').

And yet—and yet, there is a doubt nagging at the back of his mind, an abrasive pebble striding his frontal lobes. Could it be that his conception of the normal consenting adult is producing a new breed of permissive conformism to the present state of Society—a Society moreover that is now universally acknowledged to be sick† and if society as a whole is sick, then by definition the sick individual must be healthy? With the sane, insane*, the neurotic becomes the normal.

It is indeed ironic—a 'happening' in the truly psychedellic sense, that those gigantic Dynosaurs of a dying civilisation, the 'foundations' financed and supported by the organisations dedicated to the de-personalisation of the human race‡, should have promoted this critical study of the disease of which they themselves are the principle germ-factories.

If this remarkable symposium of papers has not enjoyed the critical acclaim it deserves, it can only be because of a conspiracy of silence—whether of shame or fear, it is left to the reader to decide, but

(Continued on p. 189.)

†Vide: Spengler: 'Decline of the West' and Darwin: 'The Voyage of the Beagle'.

*Vide: Groddeck: 'The World of Man'.

‡Vide: Malinovsky: 'The Rise of the Masses'.

This curious document came to the Offices of 'Spastics News' in the form of a handwritten memo conveyed from Park Crescent by three messengers travelling in pairs—Editor.



A few months ago, Billy and Joy Wright went to the Greyhound Inn, Newport, Salop, to push over a beacon worth £100. Mrs. Perry and Bill Perry, the landlords, had made a special effort to raise this sum in only a few months. They are filling up another beacon as we write



(Courtesy: South London Advertiser)

The Mayor and Mayoress of Sutton, in Surrey, make a donation to the Wishing Well on the Southern M.E.V., while Executive Committee member, Miss Jean Garwood and Mr. Lawrence Inkster look on

EMPLOYMENT NEWS

Recent news includes the following items:—

CHARLES BEARDON from St. Austell, has successfully completed the experimental period of working on a local farm, and has now received official approval from the County Agricultural Wages Committee to be employed on that type of work.

DAVID BROPHY from Blackpool, who trained at the Chester Office Training Centre, is working locally for the Tower Co. He is doing some typing, checking timesheets and answering the telephone.

MARGARET McCONOCHIE from Preston, who trained at Sherrards, is now working in the laundry at Claybury Hospital.

ROGER CRAMPTON from Hitchin, who trained at Sherrards, has commenced work in the assembly department of I.C.T. Ltd., at Letchworth.

SUSAN FITZPATRICK from Nun-eaton, who trained at the Chester Office Training Centre, is working as a clerk for the Standard Triumph Motor Co. Ltd., in Coventry.

JENNIFER HUGHES from Hoylake, who trained at the Chester Office Training Centre, has returned to work for her former employers—Pembroke Promotions.

RICHARD OEPPEN from Walton-on-Thames, who trained at Sherrards, has commenced a trial period of employment as a woodworker for a firm near Wey-bridge.

CLIVE REYNOLDS from Raynes Park, has successfully completed his six months trial period of employment with the Mutual & General Life Assurance Society and is now on their permanent staff.

AYLWIN SHAW from Hove, is now working in a local factory, having moved recently to that area from North Wales.

TERENCE SMITH from Bromley, has changed his job and is now employed as a messenger by Messrs. Liverpool Web-Offset Ltd., in their London office.

VINCENT SOLAN from Shirley, is employed in the stockroom of Messrs. Grays Ltd., in Birmingham.

DAVID STOCKWELL from East Ham, has changed his job and is employed now as a gate-keeper by a firm in Bow.

MARRIAGES

Congratulations to:

Julie Payne and Owen Parry
Sandra Brown and Mr. Payne
news of whose marriages has recently been received.

M.E.V. Itineraries in July

NORTHERN CIRCUIT		16th to	Broadstairs
Date	Location	18th-21st	Broadstairs
JULY			The Parade
2nd-5th	Seaburn Hall Seaburn	22nd to	Hastings
6th to	Durham	23rd-26th	Hastings
7th-10th	Durham Market Place, Chester le Street	27th to	The Bastion
11th to	Lake District	28th-6th August	Sandown
12th-16th	Lake District Glebe Windermere		Sandown
17th to	Whitley Bay		The Esplanade
18th-22nd	Whitley Bay Forecourt Victoria Hotel		
23rd to	Builth Wells		
24th-27th	Builth Wells Royal Welsh Agricultural Show		
28th to	Llandudno		
29th-5th August	Llandudno Pier Entrance		

SOUTHERN CIRCUIT	
JULY	
1st	Chichester East Street
2nd to	Horsham
3rd-8th	Horsham The Carfax
9th to	Maidstone
10th-15th	Maidstone Old Palace, Mile Street

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from whom any further information may be obtained.



BOBBY RUTTER IS DEAD

Dear Editor,

Eight and a half years have passed by since last I wrote anything for SPASTICS NEWS, but I have read every copy of it since I left the Society in 1958. I wonder how many people remember the first News Sheet, duplicated on a single sheet of foolscap, and published in November 1952, I think?

I still receive occasional letters from old friends up and down the country. Just the other week I heard from John Pudney, a 60-year-old spastic whom I first met in 'The Dartford Southern Hospital', about twelve years ago. He is now at 'Angers House', in Liverpool.

It is wonderful to note the progress of the Society in its fifteen years of existence, but we still need much more accommodation for elderly spastics like John.

I have been delighted to see so many centres opened up and down the country, dreams which were only vague dreams ten years ago. It is splendid to see the ready co-operation of Medical Educational, and other Local Authority departments today, compared with the suspicion, and even the active resistance we often met in those early days.

I am very proud to have been a pioneer in the formation of a Society which has done so much good for so many. All too often in these days, people feel there is a diminishing need for service to others in need. But there are still numerous shining examples of voluntary service, and our country would be much poorer without them.

I am still with the *Sailors' Children's Society*, whose headquarters are at Hull. A lot of my work concerns deprived children

and welfare work, and I am still giving talks and film shows as I did for The National Spastics Society. Occasionally I am asked to talk about spastics to various organisations.

My own son, now twenty-eight years old, is a resident of the *Percy Hedley Spastic Centre*, but comes home most weekends.

Many of you I know, will be sorry to hear of the death of Bobby Rutter at the age of fifty-five. He accompanied me several times when I used to tour the country, and I used to call him, 'My Demonstration Model'. I recounted his life story to thousands of people, and many times he has stood on the platform, and told the story himself, ending up on occasions by spitting his false teeth on the floor.

He was involved in a serious motor accident in August 1965, but miraculously survived, and fought his way back to health. He spent many months 'imprisoned' in his home. Never a good walker, he found after the accident that ten or twenty yards was as much as he could manage, but nevertheless he took to driving his new three-wheeler again. He suffered much frustration, and living alone with only a daily home help for an hour or two didn't help.

In the last few weeks he complained of internal pains, and eventually entered the hospital for observation. He faded rapidly, and died quietly in his sleep on 14th May, 1967.

One of the most independent and determined people I have known, Bobby was an example to many spastics, and he will be missed by many of us here in the North-east.

I would be pleased to hear from any of my old friends, and sometime when I can find the time, I would like to visit some of the groups I helped to pioneer.

Yours sincerely, GEO. B. LAUDER, 89 Sutherland Avenue, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, 4.



Mr. George Lauder—in transit!

Editor's Note:

We are very glad to hear from Mr. Lauder who did so much pioneering work in the early days in Stratford Road, when the 'staff' of the N.S.S. could be numbered on the fingers of one hand. Amongst those who then helped with the Christmas mail, Mrs.



Miss Julie Payne married Mr. Owen Parry recently

Howell, Mr. Newman, Mrs. Lochery and Miss Anne Plummer are still with the Society. This was Shirley Keene's impression of Mr. Lauder!

PARTY LEADERS . . . GIRLS AND BOYS!

Dear Editor,

For the thirty-two of us who were on board the *Devonia* for an excellent cruise, the above was heard several times a day. I would like, through the medium of SPASTICS NEWS to express my esteemed thanks to our Party Leaders, Mr. Hargreaves, Wendy Pearce, Pam Metherell, not forgetting Brian Hargreaves, for all their hard work and energy on our behalf.

Do I hear three hearty cheers?

Yours sincerely, D. S. BEEBEE, 10 Murtwell Drive, Chigwell, Essex.

('London '62 Club').

MY BUDGIE IS A TALKER

Dear Editor,

My budgie is two-and-a-half years old. He is a violet blue with a white face and black necklace and dark wings. He is quite tame and flies around the room. He likes to play with his toys and he is very good at talking, and he can say about twenty to thirty words now, such as 'Micky Laycock, 2 East Street. Oh dear me, give me a kiss, kiss your mother, where's Rose? where's Harold? Are you beautiful? Aren't I lovely? Good night Micky, good night sweet heart, hello Micky, poor dicky bird, oh, cheeky boy,

(continued overleaf)

Letters to the Editor (Cont'd)

be a good boy, who's a naughty boy? Good morning, I'll shoot you, where's Maureen? go to bed, morning, Maureen, where is she? He likes apples and says, 'where's Micky's?'

But it's all Maureen since I came home from Harrogate. He never stops talking from morning till night, and I shouldn't like to be without him now.

Yours sincerely, MAUREEN LAYCOCK, 2 East Street, Lightcliffe, Nr. Halifax.

HAPPY TIMES AT THE BEDFONT

Dear Editor,

Billie Noone and his mother spent a most enjoyable holiday from 10th to 24th May, at Bedfont Holiday Hotel, at Clacton-on-Sea. We were made very welcome. There were seventeen spastics and sixteen staff who made you feel at home at once. There is a feeling of friendliness and it is so peaceful, and not only plenty of good food, but our washing and sewing was done daily. We were taken to the theatre, and also for a circular tour of 40 miles. Everything was done to add to our comfort and we had a good view of the sea which is about 100 yards from the hotel. We had a verandah with a glass front which kept out the cold winds and rain, there were wonderful lawns to sit out on if weather permitted. On 3rd July there will be a

Summer Fête and we are hoping to raise some more money for the swimming pool which is badly needed. Mrs. Molyneux and Mr. Simmonds, the Wardens, are working very hard towards the target. The weather for our stay was not very kind, but we did have some very hot summer days and I can thoroughly recommend the Bedfont Hotel for a happy holiday.

Yours sincerely, JANE and BILLIE NOONE, 5 Bartonway, Queen's Terrace, St. John's Wood, N.W.8.

NO ROOM AT THE INN?

Dear Editor,

Robert John Owen, 46-year-old Press Secretary of the Colwyn Bay Group, meandered off on a holiday recently. He packed his bags, cancelled the milk (for he lives alone) checked that he had the bits of paper concerning his hotel accommodation and set off with a full petrol tank; destination, Plymouth.

None of which gives any impression that Mr. Owen is spastic and severely handicapped at that. He can walk—but it is rather a slow process. His hands require much concentration and his speech, although more fluent in his native Welsh than in English, is difficult. But nothing daunted, off he set.

It was very pleasant. His 'disabled' car didn't break any speed records but he got a good view of the spring countryside. He found his hotels each evening and was able to cope with the odd steps and stairs and the speech barrier without too much trouble.

Then came Newport. Mr. Owen arrived

a bit late, about 8.30, found his hotel and made his slow and difficult way to the reception desk. His enquiries about his booking were met with a complete rejection. In vain he produced the confirmation but that was that! They wouldn't take him in, despite his booking.

His bewilderment accentuating his handicap, he doggedly went on. His progress was slow and painful, two more hotels and three hours later he still had no bed for the night. Then at a quarter to midnight a kind family solved his plight and he found a night's rest. What is more they would not accept any payment the following morning.

Probably these hotels' treatment of Mr. Owen is not typical of the general attitude to unaccompanied spastics who seek independence. We hope not.

Yours sincerely, SHIRLEY KEENE.

COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS

Dear Editor,

The Bristol Society is running a workshop at Dovercourt Road, and one of their occupations, which is giving a good financial return is the collection of **English commemorative postage stamps** received by various offices in the City. In turn the stamps are washed clean of paper, sorted and packeted in 100's and then marketed by me.

It occurred to Mr. Garland and myself that some other Groups may wish to take this scheme up and either use it to give their own workshop work or to raise funds. It is a particularly good time to start at present, as we have in issue a set of flowers and in July a set of paintings are being released.

Should any of your Groups feel they are interested, further details will be willingly supplied.

Yours sincerely, W. SPARKS, 28 Greenway Road, Taunton, Som.

WHAT ABOUT THOSE SPUDS?

Dear Editor,

Like other spastics who do their own housekeeping, I have found short cuts to many of the more fiddly domestic tasks, but must admit defeat where new potatoes are concerned.

Using a knife and pot-scourer it takes me a good half-hour to scrape enough for one helping and by that time many of the smaller potatoes have fallen behind the fridge or into other inaccessible places.

When in a hurry, I am often reduced to peeling them in the same manner as old potatoes, taking off a thick layer of skin, but there is so much wastage in this method.

Have SPASTICS NEWS readers any bright ideas?

Yours faithfully, RELUCTANT SPUD-BASHER.

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Post Scriptum from the Editor . . .

(a bit left over from the Delarue Story actually)

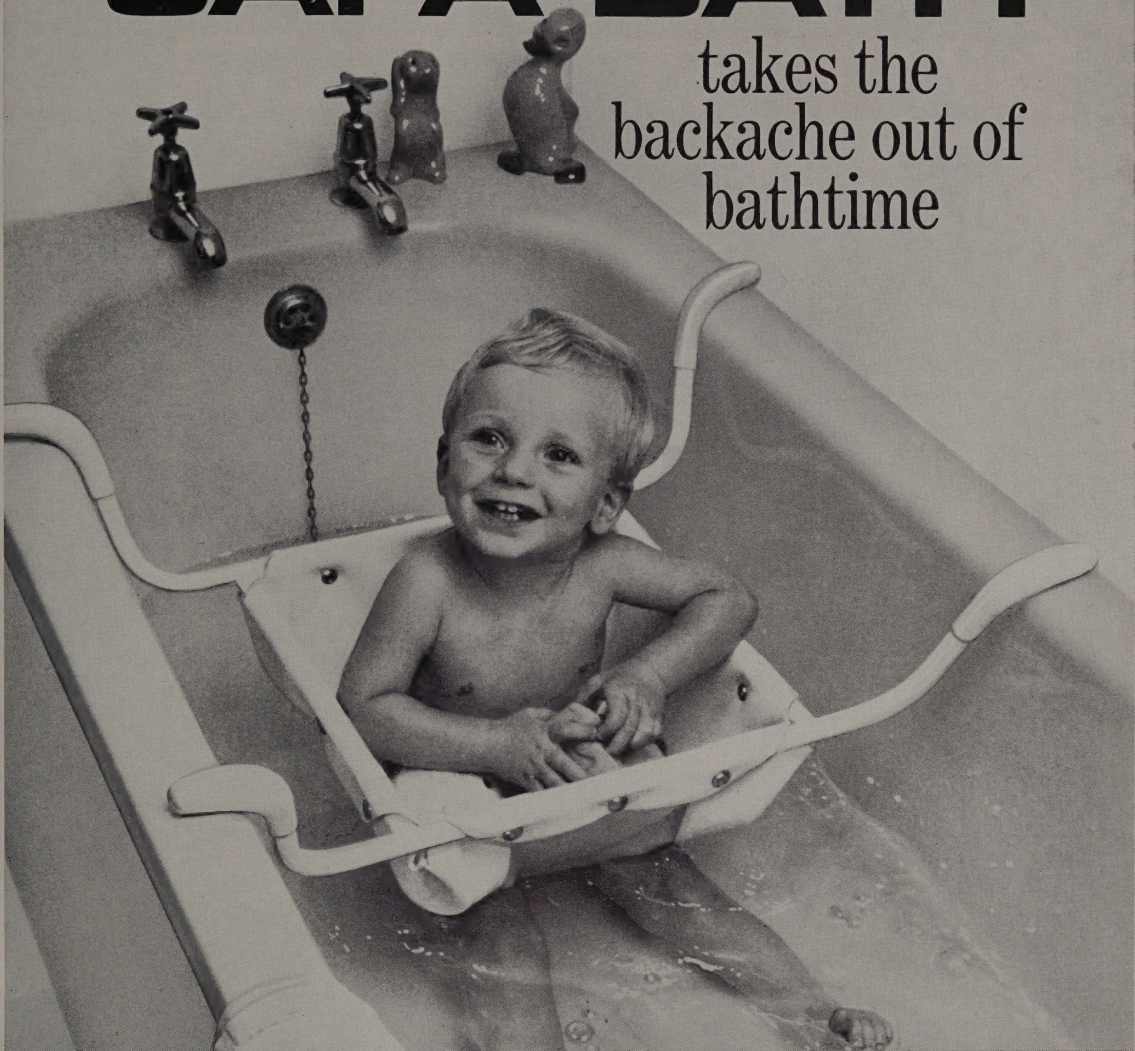
The distant explosions of crisis seemed very far away when I walked down the rhododendron lane to see Dene Park: the cooing of doves and a Delius-like Cuckoo coming in dead on cue, the small rustlings in the undergrowth were loud in their condemnation of man's inhumanity to man.

I had never been to this centre of Further Education, and though I recognised it from photographs, I was not prepared for the beauty of its setting nor for the magnificent sweep of country spread out at its feet. If maladjustment in any way can survive such surroundings, I thought, then Rousseau has lived in vain.

And what I was shown by the School Secretary, Mrs. Valerie Fenton, confirmed the first favourable impression. An account of the centre and its work must, unfortunately, be held over to another issue.

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BILL IS HAPPY AGAIN



Club Organiser Bill Hargreaves, recently suffered a tragedy, in that his two 'children', Danny and Katie, were stolen from his home. The Press were immediately alerted and an eagle-eyed school girl spotted them on a rubbish dump and notified the police. The happy ending is depicted here, when Bill collected his 'missing persons' from the local Police Station.